

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace paragraph [0002] beginning on page 1 of the application with the following amended paragraph:

“During the carbothermic production of aluminum in electric smelting reactors, the off gases are treated to recover aluminum. Typically, the off gases contain oxides of carbon and considerable amounts of aluminum vapor and aluminum sub-oxides such as  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}$ . The aluminum and aluminum compounds in the off gas are typically recovered in a counter-current gas-solid reactor or column wherein particulate carbon matter flows downward while the gas or the off gas flows upward. One example of such a column is taught in U.S. Pat. No. ~~4,099,957~~ 4,099,959 to Dewing et al. wherein the off gas passes up through a bed of relatively large pieces of carbon that are essentially stationary with respect to one another.”